

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00084 110331Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 TRSE-00 /102 W
-----112384 110337Z /72

O P 110238Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9030
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY REYJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0084

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: WESTERN FIVE RESPONSE TO SOUTH AFRICA REGARDING
TIMING OF PROPOSED PROXIMITY TALKS

REF: (A) USUN 070; (B) PRETORIA 0162; (C) LAGOS 0370 (NOTAL)

1. IN LIGHT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S REJECTION OF JANUARY 30 AS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00084 110331Z

STARTING DATE OF PROPOSED PROXIMITY TALKS (REF A), CONTACT
GROUP DISCUSSED AM JANUARY 10 NEXT STEPS REGARDING TIMING
OF TALKS, GIVEN SWAPO'S INSISTENCE THAT TALKS NOT START UNTIL
JANUARY 30 AND NOW SOUTH AFRICA'S REJECTION OF THE WEEK OF THE
30TH, AMB MCHENRY
SUGGESTED THAT EFFORTS NOW BE MADE TO SET DATE OF TALKS
FOR FEBRUARY 6, THIS BEING THE CLOSEST DATE NOT YET RE-

JECTED BY EITHER PARTY. THE BRITISH REACTED NEGATIVELY. AMB MURRAY CITED URGENCY OF TALKS AND UNDERLINED THE DOMESTIC PRESSURE WHICH BRITISH FEEL SOUTH AFRICANS ARE UNDER TO ANNOUNCE ELECTION DATE. HE ARGUED THAT PROPOSAL TO START TALKS ON FEBRUARY 6 (WELL AFTER THE JANUARY 27 DEADLINE BY WHICH SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE SAID THEY MUST ANNOUNCE ELECTION DATE) WOULD ONLY STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THOSE IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WHO WISH TO PROCEED ON AN INTERNAL SOLUTION. THE BRITISH, THEREFORE, SUGGESTED THAT A STARTING DATE OF JANUARY 23RD BE PROPOSED TO SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA. US OPPOSED THIS SUGGESTION, BELIEVING IT UNFAIR TO PROPOSE A DATE WHEN WE ALREADY HAVE SUBSTANTIAL REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE PARTIES CANNOT ACCEPT IT. MURRAY CONTINUED TO PRESS HIS POINT, PICKING UP GERMAN SUPPORT IN THE PROCESS, BUT FAILING TO CONVINCE EITHER FRANCE OR CANADA. CANADA THEN PROPOSED COMPROMISE INVOLVING FORMAL APPROACHES TO BOTH SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA EXPLAINING (A) THAT JANUARY 17 IS BAD FOR BOTH SWAPO AND THE UN; (B) THAT JANUARY 30 IS BAD FOR SOUTH AFRICA; AND (C) ASKING IF EITHER THE 23RD OF JANUARY OR THE 6TH OF FEBRUARY MIGHT, THEREFORE, BE POSSIBILITIES. FRG AND FRANCE QUICKLY ACCEPTED THIS SUGGESTION.

GROUP AGREED TO CONFER WITH CAPITALS ON PROPOSED COMPROMISE AND RELATED ISSUES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 00084 110331Z

2. SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH BRITISH LATER IN THE DAY HAVE INDICATED THAT LONDON STRONGLY PREFERS MURRAY'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL OF SUGGESTING TO SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAPO ONLY THE DATE OF JANUARY 23. LONDON WOULD ALSO AGREE TO WARNING THE SOUTH AFRICANS AGAIN OF THE DANGERS OF ANNOUNCING AN ELECTION DATE; HOWEVER, LONDON DOES NOT LIKE THE PROPOSED COMPROMISE. THEY STATE THAT BY SUGGESTING ONLY THE 23RD, THE WESTERN FIVE WOULD UNDERLINE THE URGENCY WE ATTACH TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A SOLUTION. THEY FURTHER STATE THAT ONLY BY SCHEDULING TALKS PRIOR TO JANUARY 27 CAN WE HOPE TO FORESTALL THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN ELECTION DATE.

3. COMMENT. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT BEST PROCEDURE WOULD BE TO PROPOSE TO SOUTH AFRICANS AND SWAPO ONLY THE DATE OF FEBRUARY 6. WE FEEL IT INAPPROPRIATE TO PROPOSE A DATE WHICH WE ALREADY HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE IS UNACCEPTABLE TO ONE PARTY. OUR POSITION IS FURTHER REINFORCED BY EMBASSY LAGOS' REPORT (REF C) THAT NUJOMA IS RECOVERING FROM SURGERY IN EAST GERMANY. IF THE THREAT OF A SOUTH AFRICAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN ELECTION DATE IS NOW DETERMINING WESTERN FIVE STRATEGY, PERHAPS WE SHOULD

CONFRONT THAT THREAT HEAD ON. AT THE SAME TIME WE RECOGNIZE THAT A UNIFIED WESTERN FIVE POSITION IS NECESSARY, AND WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF SWAYING THE FIVE TO SUPPORT OUR STAND. IN THIS LIGHT, WE BELIEVE THAT A COMPROMISE PROCEDURE SIMILAR TO THAT PROPOSED ABOVE BY THE CANADIANS WILL BE ONLY SOLUTION. WE SAY THAT RELUCTANTLY RECOGNIZING THE DANGER THAT SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA MAY ACCEPT DIFFERENT DATES. UKUN WILL BE DISCUSSING SUBJECT FURTHER WITH LONDON; CONTACT GROUP WILL MEET AM JANUARY 11

4. AS WE CONSIDER SOUTH AFRICA'S RESPONSE (REF B), IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT ONCE AGAIN THAT CENTRAL QUESTION CONCERNING THE WESTERN FIVE INITIATIVE IS WHETHER OR NOT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ANY INTEREST IN A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 USUN N 00084 110331Z

NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. SWAPO HAS NOW ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE AND VENUE OF THE PROPOSED PROXIMITY TALKS; THEY HAVE PROBLEMS ONLY ON THE DATE AND HAVE AGREED TO MEET ON JANUARY 30. SOUTH AFRICA, ON THE OTHER HAND, DESPITE AN INITIAL ACCEPTANCE OF OUR INVITATION TO PROXIMITY TALKS, HAS NOW BEEN ASKED WHETHER THE TALKS COULD BEGIN ON JANUARY 30TH, INSTEAD OF ON THE 17TH, AND THEY HAVE RESPONDED THAT THE WEEK OF THE 30TH IS OUT. IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TALKS MUST EITHER BE HELD ON THE 17TH OR NOT AT ALL. THIS IMPRESSION WAS CONVEYED IN CONVERSATION WHICH MCHENRY HAD JANUARY 10 WITH EKSTEEN, CHARGE OF SOUTH AFRICA MISSION TO UN. IN NEXT FEW DAYS SOUTH AFRICA INTEREST IN AN INTERNATIONALLY -ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT WILL BE TESTED. SOME SUCH INTEREST MUST EXIST IF OUR INITIATIVE IS TO MOVE AHEAD. END COMMENT.

LEONARD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN00084
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780015-0724
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780173/aaaaczj.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 753c8be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 70, 78 PRETORIA 162, 78 LAGOS 370
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3790402
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: WESTERN FIVE RESPONSE TO SOUTH AFRICA REGARDING TIMING OF PROPOSED PROXIMITY TALKS
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/753c8be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014